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THREE DEAD YESTERDAY

(Continued from Page 11.)

a temperature of 102, pulse 125. The femoral gland on the left leg was highly swollen, and the slightest pressure upon the part caused intense pain to the patient. He seemed in good spirits, however, even when being removed to the Chinese hospital for treatment. It was a highly suspicious case, and the physicians expressed an opinion after the examination that he would probably die inside of twenty-four hours, which he did.

The Kobiyashi Hotel premises have had a good deal of sickness, inside and in the direct vicinity of late. A Japanese in the building, who had been ailing from fever, was removed by the Japanese physicians on Saturday. A Japanese, who died behind the shack of the Chinese, Kon Wai, was attended by the Japanese physicians, who also removed an inguinal gland for examination.

Many cases of sickness were visited throughout the day by the health physicians and one case of suspicious sickness reported to the office. A Chinese, who died on the Ewa side of Nuuanu street, between Beretania and Kukui, was reported as a suspicious death. Dr. Scaparoni, who visited the premises, found that before he could make his examination the Chinaman had been removed for burial.

Executive Officer Reynolds and Agent Johnson had a small official fire of their own yesterday at Pawa. They burned the shack in which the Chinese died on Monday last. The shack was situated near a duck pond off Sheridan street, and left nothing but the ruins behind.

One of the men who has been lending valuable aid to the Board of Health during the present quarantine, is William Crawford, the Hawaiian whose anomalous connections make him a Hawaiian Chinese, although there is not a drop of Chinese blood in his veins. As an interpreter and an inspector he has lent faithful services in attempting to alleviate the evils which exist among his chosen countrymen. Several cases of sickness have been ferreted out by him, his full knowledge of Chinese customs being a valuable aid. He enjoys the confidence both of the Chinese and those of the Board with whom he has been thrown in contact. The case of Kon Wai, although being hid away in a small, hot shack, was discovered by him, the patient being afterwards pronounced a bubonic victim. At yesterday's fire his services were of particular value in explaining to the evicted Chinese the reasons of the Board for their action and in calming their fears.

IMPORTANT MEETING.

Board Resolves to Condemn Infected Section at Once.

A meeting of the Board of Health was held on Saturday evening at the Health Office to discuss the question of condemning infected parts of Chinatown and removing sections by fire. Besides President Cooper, who was in the chair, there were present as members of the Board Drs. Wood, Day and Emerson, George W. Smith and Executive Officer Reynolds. Hon. L. A. Thurston, by special request of President Cooper, was also present to make some suggestions relative to more vigorous action on the part of the Board in ridding Chinatown of its dread visitor—the plague. President Cooper, in opening the meeting, said:

"In company with Mr. George W. Smith, a member of the Board and a few members of the Government survey staff and Drs. Pratt and Grossman, I made a thorough inspection of Block No. 10, bounded by Nuuanu, Pauahi, Smith and Beretania. The result of our observation was that we were prepared for the condemnation of the entire block with the exception of four or five buildings, which have been marked on the map. The surveys have located the buildings and the grounds and will be ready for a final report on Monday. I have asked Mr. Thurston here tonight. He has suggested that we take more vigorous measures in regard to the buildings which have been infected. There are two policies to pursue—one with direct authority of the Board to destroy all buildings, and another to proceed in the manner which the law gives us.

"Damages will, of course, be assessed against the Government. It is well enough to say that the infected premises should be destroyed immediately. There is every reason to believe that the whole block is infected surrounding the place. It is a different problem from that which we faced in the cholera time. To discuss this matter is a question of policy. Mr. Thurston says it is time for action. As I understand it from outside criticism, the Board has been negligent on that line in not destroying all buildings where infection has occurred."

Dr. Emerson: "What is your opinion in regard to the legal aspect for the Board of Health to go ahead and destroy what needs to be destroyed?"

President Cooper: "The law on its face apparently gives the Board full control. The Board and the Government may, however, be open to proceedings in court by injunction. But the law, as it stands, gives the Board the right to condemn. We have a right to declare any building or any enclosure, or any place, on account of a case of sickness, and remove it at the owner's expense. I say it then becomes a question of policy—will the Board go ahead in these matters in a deliberate way?"

Dr. Emerson: "I should go right ahead and take all the responsibility and burn anything and do anything that is necessary. I think that is the proper policy of this Board."

President Cooper: "You think, then, we should go ahead and burn this block right away if we want to?"

Dr. Emerson: "Yes, sir."

Mr. Smith: "Take one block and follow out the course of the law and give them notice. I think it is ridiculous to burn all these people out. Condemn these buildings according to law."

Considerable discussion was indulged in regarding the conditions

which bring about the infection, the medical men stating their full belief in the transferring of the plague germs by the migrating habits of rats. Also ways and means were discussed as to how the 2,000 persons of the block in question were to be housed and fed while the work of demolition and construction was going on. The people would have to leave their belongings behind them, which would eventually, in the greater part, be destroyed. It was pointed out that the Board in making wholesale condemnations and burnings was laying itself open to a tremendous responsibility, but they stated positively that if the plague was to be stamped out the people would have to be removed elsewhere from the district and provided for. There seemed to be no other remedy.

President Cooper: "There are two methods to pursue—one to condemn the block and give the owners and tenants notification to leave; and another to go right in and burn the places down."

L. A. Thurston: "What induced me to come here and see you was a conversation I had with Dr. Wood this afternoon. I read an article lately in the Nineteenth Century concerning the plague in Oporto. It stated, among other things that the methods pursued thereby quarantining people in the infected houses were more liable to spread the disease than prevent it. If there was infection in a building there was every possible chance for the people in the building to catch the plague in that manner. Dr. Wood agreed with me that the balance of people in a house after it has become infected should be removed. Fire and destruction of the places are the best methods. I inquired why this had not been done. He stated that so much had to be done that they had not been able to come to this phase of the question. He told me that he had personally gone to a Nuuanu street house and found the people had all been shut in. He had the bedding of the infected room taken to the street and burned. In few cases have all the belongings been destroyed; more than using disinfectants liberally, destruction of belongings had not been carried out.

"I have not come here with a view to finding fault, but, to the contrary, to lend as far as I can, any possible assistance, and give suggestions to take what seemed to me, stronger measures for action in stamping out the plague in order to save ourselves from a ruinous catastrophe. I understand the plague has been running four or five years in Hongkong, and unless we can meet the thing right here now, and stamp it out, we are liable to become a plague-ridden spot for years.

"My idea is to adopt by resolution, new regulations, for instance, that as soon as a certain building has a plague patient in it certain measures should be taken to prevent the disease spreading. Wherever practicable, I say, the building should be destroyed; the sooner the better. I understand it is a question of rats coming into a house and going out of it that spreads the disease. My suggestion would be this: Remove the inmates to some other place, where they can be cared for, and then proceed to the work of destroying the building, and I would suggest this be done now while there are so few cases. I have drawn up a few suggestions which I desire to make to the Board, as follows:

Let the Board adopt regulations providing that upon each case of plague being reported, the following action be taken:

The patient be immediately removed to the hospital or mortuary.

That all other occupants of the building be immediately removed from the building to quarantine quarters to be provided for that purpose and there thoroughly disinfected and quarantined.

That all furniture, clothing and bedding about the premises be immediately burned. An inspector to have the authority to exempt therefrom articles not easily infected, such as metal, etc., these to be immediately thoroughly disinfected.

All wooden buildings in which a case of plague occurs, and all wooden buildings in immediate communication therewith to be burned as soon as possible, precautions being taken to prevent the fire spreading.

In addition to disinfecting the lot on which the case has occurred, the same to be covered as soon as practicable possible with combustible material and the same burned, so as to thoroughly burn the surface of the soil.

A case of plague is found in a brick or stone building the same methods of disinfection to be followed above set forth, except that the building shall not be destroyed. All floors of the same and all portions which are brought in contact with the inmates to be removed and burned.

The question of providing places of shelter for those who were put into the "barracks quarantine" was discussed at length, and it was decided to prepare the Kakaako Rifle range quarters for service and to build up temporary barracks which will accommodate several hundred persons. President Cooper stated that he intended to request the Minister of the Interior to construct barracks to hold 1,000 people. Mr. Thurston stated he was ready to assist in any way possible, in carrying out any of the suggestions he made.

Dr. Day stated that the only way to combat the plague was to remove the people from the infected houses, and that many of the houses in Chinatown should be destroyed. Had the Board attempted to tear down any buildings in Chinatown six months ago, he stated it would not have had any support from the people at all. Without any danger threatening the people, the community would have said the Board "had gone crazy."

Dr. Wood: "I would like to make a motion that all the people living in the infected houses be removed to some clean place; that all furnishings in the houses which cannot be easily disinfected, be burned, and the same removed to new and clean places. That the materials and belongings of the sick man should be destroyed."

The motion prevailed.

President Cooper: "I should think a resolution to the general effect that in the opinion of the Board these premises are considered a source of sickness they should be condemned, and that legal notices should be given for the vacation of the premises."

A motion to this effect was carried.

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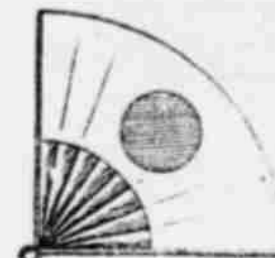
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